Dear Paul, 7/17/72

The wetness of the grass that needs cutting (it has been like lets get ready for Noah here since before Hurricane Agnes) and the fact that I'll have to go out and see if the mail has come in an hour make it possible for me to write about several things. I've finally cleaned up the accumulated correspondence (but have other and enormous kinds of accumulations) and hope to get back to what can be productive work after the mail.

Withheld Jackie page: I'll be using it in the appendix of PM. I'd like to include a note at the bottom including all the spurious reasons given, going back to my denial in 1966. They have given me two reasons not consistent with the printed one. I know of one they gave you not identical with what was given me. So, I'd appreciate it when you have time of you could give me only the date and the briefest direct quote from what was written to you.

I have been thinking about this in the context of other things, and I don't believe it is reaction to either of us that prompted release of this page. I have in the Epilogue all I'll say about the substance, by the way.

I have been going through other administrative remedies on what is closely related, but I don't think that causes it, either. I think in part if is possible use we haven't divined by them, in part the certainty that it now would get no press attention.

The Wecht operation has apparently soured everyone involved. I have not made general distribution of what I have written about it because it would merely cause further divisions and embitterment. I know much more than I have said and my correspondence has been xxx restricted. I know that Gary and Jerry have sent their letters only to some, as I have not done. Their part was at best futile, for I had given Cyril the knowledge when I got it, on his word he'd keep it confidential. So all that is involved with them is stupidity, arrogance and what I regard as rotten ethics. This kind of intrusion by those who don't know what they are into and make no effort to learn or refuse to is one of the things that eliminates our need of enemies. We couldn't prevent anything the government might want to do. We could help them, as this can, or we could hold back and try to offset them, as we now have even less chance of doing. The letters Gary and Jerry have circulated are in both case false and evasive. They are not consistent with each other and in Gary's case, where he claims duplication of my work becomes an honorable endeavor, he did that from what he had also accepted from me in confidence. Those files are full of things available to anyone making sufficient and properly-directed effort, but this does not mean those who have not done it have the rights to everything whether or not obtained. In the present case, all those involved got the document in question and more from me and under stipulated and accepted confidence. The insanities that have followed wouldddemean a self-respecting madhouse. There have been lamentable developments and disclosures of a personal nature I feel should not be broadcasthence do not tell you , for they could be personally damaging to one of these who are and have been out of it, and that I would like to reduce to the minimum. What this mens to me is that my contacts will be more restricted. That, hopefully, we give me more time for other things. I have with some care prepared to the degree I can for counter-moves, but I do not delude myself about the possibility of getting attention for time if this operation turns out to be counter-productive. I did these things long ago, in anticipation of the present situation, you have all in your files, and I hope you can see what I have in mind. I laid a partial foundation in the clothing -pix suit.

I believe I have told you of the possibility that Hunt's path and mine crossed in 1965. This merely adds to my interest in The Watergate Caper, hence I took the time for yesterday's memo before some of the details fled my mind. I've carboned JHS on it.

With resignation I have come to accept the fact that too many of us are self-seeking and the relatively few who are not are usually incapable of political thinking, for all the world as though we are researching the pink-eyed Peruvian pirhanas, not a political matter. I have come to understand that for those of you to whom this kind of thinking is foreign, it will remain that way and there is nothing I can do about it. Your minds don't work that way and rebel at the new and strange. And nobody ever learns. Howard will tell you that if I did not predict what the Times did, I predicted in general that the Pelin futility in which Sylvia engaged would have such a counter-productive effect and discouraged him from his own efforts along that line. This is the way things now are. With this evidence before her, what

does Sylvia's authentic if detached brilliance require of her? Duplication on a grander scale. This whole thing has required that I give thought to the past. Seh and I have had frequent disagreements, of which you know the one over you, you federal fink. In every case except Garrison she has been wrong, and in that case I consider her course of conduct wrong, her extremes inexcusable. She is the creature of a minumental passion that her intellect can't control and the captive of a yearn that has become insensate. You'd be astounded at the number of judgement faults from no one of which she has learned. If we are none immune, I doubt anyone can equal her record, despite the impressive mental equipment she could bring to bear. The tragedy is that she immobilizes it with emotions. Being consistently wrong has become the excuse for repeating what has always turned out to be wrong, and endless string of wrongsapprently being conceived the basis for an ultimate right. I shudder to think of the potential if she ever comes to understand.

Jerry's compulsion to self-justification has driven him far. When I wrote and told him I was breaking all relations, I also asked for the return of my CIA foundations file, only copies that can't be replaced. He had been promising this for a year. He brought 7 x people here for a weekend once, all strangers to us. Of one he later said he had always thought him some kind of agent. What better reason for bringing him here and thence to an anti-war demonstration? A young couple impressed us much. They professed a desire to be of help. I asked the woman, who has no knowledge of the assassination, if she'd care to index this file. She thought the idea great. I asked Jerry if he'd accept responsibility, for she was a total stranger, and he said he would and would return the file in person when she had completed it. He has not responded to my request for the return of this file. I really have been after him to do this for a long time. He had been driving here for weekends frequently. Now he not only does not respond to me but tells others he has no responsibility and won't do it. Yet he knows I have no other way of getting it, not knowing anything about this girl but her first name. I asked another friend, who is busier by far than Jerry, if he would arrange to get it to me if Jerry gets it from the girl. Nobody but Jerry is able to. Jerry again refused. Meanwhile he professes undying love for me, unbounded respect for my work, and tells those who don't have to know the essential fact to know better that this is no more than a minor misunderstanding. The net result is that the best file of whichi I know is permanently denied us, deliberately now and by ngglect and irresponsibility to now. I suggest that at the least you can get from this a measure of Jerry's personal sense of responsibility and of the workings of his mind. There is no name that has appeared in that connection not in that file. I think this lets you appraise its poetntial value, as it does Jerry's sincerity and dedication. As everyone including his close friends are telling me, that he wrote an article on the Times has given his ego all it needed to be beyond restraint. He has gone crazy with self-esteem, with an incredible belief in his own importance. Yet he hasn't even read the basic published works.

The other thing I want to ask is about repriduction of more copies of PM. I am not entirely out of them. Quite contrary to the intensive propaganda that comes back to me, I am making it available to others after receipt of the assumances I ask. In some cases they duplicate their own copies, in some they repay me for the xeroxing, etc. I mailed one this a.m. I didn't invendory, but I think that from all the sources of copies, I have but two. So, because it would take so long to go through the files to learn what the cost will be, when you have time would you please let me know the cost per set, two pages to one sheet. After the thesis is done, I may ask you to have more made. Meanwhile, perhaps some such machines are available here, and through Jim or others I may learn of it.

An unexpectable thing has happened. I hesitate to attribute too much to it, but it may lead to a better situation with the Post. After one of their stipid pseudo-psychological articles I wrote Bradlee a letter and included a carbon of a draft prepared for the Inquirer. He appears not to have rejected it and he didn't give it to the staffer to whom I'd asked he give it. He gave it to the editor of their Sunday magazine, and the managing editor phoned me last week. He said he found it fascinating. It is a simplification of the "Can Mr. Weisberg" threat and a projection of the potential of all the advertising for nuts to kill if a really bright one get the notion and says the police mind can't cope with it. I think and have thought it wuld make a good novel with movie potential. Several (book publishing) editors agree, as does this Post man. Now to see if the mail is here. Hope you can find time to send the Miguel Augustin reports. Best regards,